

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 02626 260347Z POSS DUPE
ACTION EA-12

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S E C R E T BANGKOK 2626

FOL TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM CHIANG MAI DATED 25 JAN 1978
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

S E C R E T CHIANG KAI 035

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: THAI NARCOTICS POLICY

REFS: STATE 016845, BANGKOK 02261

SUMMARY: WHILE THE BPP HAS BEEN SPENDING MORE TIME ON NAR-
COTICS SUPPRESSION THEN IT USED TO DO SOME YEARS AGO, THIS IS
NOT THE RESULT OF ANY US REWARD SYSTEM. NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT
BY DOING SO, THE BPP IS NEGLECTING OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES IN
ITS BORDER SECURITY MISSION. END OF SUMMARY.

1. UNDER THE CURRENT SYSTEM, DEA REWARDS ARE NOT MADE TO
POLICE OFFICERS, NOR TO ANYONE ELSE WITHIN THE BPP, BUT ONLY
TO INFORMERS WHO SUPPLY INFORMATION LEADING TO ARRESTS, CON-
VICTIONS, OR SEIZURES. (THE DEA CHIANG MAI REGIONAL OFFICE IS
SECRET

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 02626 260347Z POSS DUPE

PREPARING FIGURES ON THE ACTUAL AWARDS PAID THROUGH BPP FORCES
OVER THE LAST YEAR, AND THESE WILL BE FORWARDED WHEN AVAILABLE.)
AS BPP OFFICERS SOMETIMES HANDLE THOSE REWARDS IN PASSING
THEM ON TO INFORMERS, WE SUSPECT THAT SOME OF THE MONEY MAY BE
SKIMMED OFF FOR OTHER USES. HOWEVER, BASED ON THE NUMBER OF
REWARDS THAT HAVE BEEN PAID TO BPP INFORMANTS OVER THE LAST
YEAR WE COULD HARDLY DESCRIBE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION AS A

LUCRATIVE OCCUPATION. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN SUCH AWARDS ARE COMPARED TO THE REWARDS AVAILABLE FROM TRAF- FICKERS FOR SIMPLY IGNORING THE TRADE.

2. IT IS TRUE THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE BPP IN NORTH THAILAND HAS SPENT A GREAT DEAL MORE TIME AND EFFORT ON ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN. WHILE THE THE FEW REWARDS THAT ARE AVAILABLE MAY HAVE PLAYED A SMALL PART IN ENCOURAG- ING THIS GREATER CONCENTRATION IN NARCOTICS EFFORTS, THE REAL FORCE IS THE THAI GOVERNMENT ITSELF WITH ITS GREATER EMPHASIS ON ANTI-NARCOTICS POLICIES.

3. THE US DOES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENCOURAGING THE APPLICATION OF THIS EMPHASIS BY THE BPP ON NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS. THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THAT ENCOURAGEMENT IS THE SUPPORT IN ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. WORKING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE NORTH BE- TWEEN OFFICERS OF THE REGION 3 BPP AND US OFFICIALS ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PRESSURES ON LOCAL OFFICERS TO TOCHZDWERIOUSLY ABOUT NARCOTICS. LWQACKL

WPS INPUT
INTO THIS HAS BEEN OUR DIRECT AID, INCLUDING HJXGNRVBJASM

4. STILL, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, ANY INCREASED EFFORTS BY THE BPP IN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IS THE DIRECT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 02626 260347Z POSS DUPE

RESULT OF THE ORDERS RECEIVED FROM BANGKOK. GIVEN THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S EMPHASIS ON THE THREAT THAT NARCOTICS REPRESENT TO THE THAI NATION, ONE COULD VERY WELL ARGUE THAT IN THE AREA ALONG THE THAIHBORDER NARCOTIXS SUP- PRESSION IS A PRIMARY BORDER SECURITY MISSION OF THE BPP, AND SOME BPP OFFICERS OBVIOUSLY ACCEPT THAT.

5. WE ARE HOWEVER AWARE THAT SOME OF THE BPP OFFICERS ARE NOT PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH BEING CHARGED WITH ANTI-NARCOTICS RESPONSIBILITIES. NOT ONLY DO THEY RESENT BEING REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE HEROIN TRADE, THEY SEE ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS AS A THREAT TO IRREGULAR GROUPS LIKE SUA WITH WHICH THEY HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF SYMPATHY. SUCH OFFICER WILL OFTEN EXPRESS THE OPINION THAT THEY WISHED THE BPP COULD GET OUT OF THE ANTI-NARCOTICS BUSINESS AND BACK TO THEIR "PRIMARY ROLE."

6. OFFICERS WHO RESENT THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE BPP BE INVOLVED IN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS OFTEN ARE QUITE VOCAL IN COMPLAINING THAT SUCH OPERATIONS ARE ONLY THE RESULT OF US PRESSURES ON THE THAI GOVERNMENT. THEY CLAIM THAT THAILAND GAINS LITTLE IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

FROM ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS, AND BELIEVE SUCH EFFORTS ARE ONLY MADE BECAUSE OF US PRESSURE. THEIR OBVIOUS CONCLUSION IS THAT THAILAND SHOULD BE ECONOMICALLY REWARDED FOR ITS EFFORTS. WE SUSPECT THAT AS A RESULT OF SUCH BELIEFS THERE IS SOME PRESSURE WITHIN THE RTG TO TRY AND GET MORE OUT OF THE US IN TERMS OF CAPITAL GOODS LIKE HELICOPTERS AND OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE. WE SUSPECT THAT IS THE REAL MESSAGE MAJ.GEN. ARD IS TRYING TO GET ACROSS IN WASHINGTON. "IF THE US WANTS MORE OUT OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT, THE US IS GOING TO HAVE TO PUT MORE IN."

7. FRANKLY, WE IN CHIANG MAI WISH THERE WAS SOME TRUTH IN MAJOR GENERAL ARD'S ACCUSATIONS IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE LONG BELIEVED THAT IF THERE WAS SOME WAY IN WHICH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 BANGKO 02626 260347Z POSS DUPE

US-SUPPORTED AWARDS COULD BE EXTENDED TO POLICEMEN AND POLICE OFFICERS, THEN WE WOULD SEE CONSIDERABLY GREATER EFFORT ON THEIR PART AGAINST THE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. AS WE WOULD ARGUE THAT THAILAND'S MAJOR SECURITY PROBLEM ALONG ITS FRONTIERS WITH BURMA IS THAT OF NARCOTICS, WE WOULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THE INDUCEMENT OF SUCH REWARDS WOULD BE INTERFERING WITH THE BORDER PATROL POLICE'S PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES.

TANNER

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WHITEHOUSE

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